(b) whether it is now recognized that the problems faced by these people are not only medical and social but also Human Rights issue as Government policies to help them are not being implemented; and

(c) if so, Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) As per the sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 1991, approximately 5% of the population is estimated to be affected by some kind of disability.'

(b) and (c) A number of schemes and programmes are being implemented for education, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities through the National Institutes, Composite Rehabilitation Centres, Regional Rehabilitation Centres and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are also assisted under the scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme) and Assistance to Disabled for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP). Soft loans are also provided by National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) for self-employment ventures. In addition, various States are also providing facilities and concessions like pension, unemployment allowance, transport subsidies etc. To give effect to the proclamation on the full participation and equality of the people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been enacted.

Neglect of disabled

1478. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 60 million disabled people in the country, out of which, Government grants and institutions cater to just 5 per cent leaving the rest to fend for themselves; and

(b) if so, Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTYA): (a) and (b) As per the sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1991, approximately *5%* of the population is estimated to be effected by some kind of disability. A number of schemes and programmes are being implemented for education, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities through the National

Institutes, Composite Rehabilitation Centres, Regional Rehabilitation Centres and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are also assisted under the scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme) and Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP). Soft loans are also provided by National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) for self-employment ventures. In addition, various States are also providing facilities and concession like pension, unemployment allowance, transport subsidies etc.

Inclusion of Bengali Navshudra in SC Category

†1479. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 3090 given in Rajya Sabha on 18th December, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information asked from the State Government has been received; and

(b) if so, by when the Bengali Navshudra caste of Uttaranchal will be included in the list of Scheduled Caste?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The State Government of Uttaranchal was requested for sending relevant information on 14.09.2001. They have been reminded again. Relevant details are awaited. Further action can be taken on getting details. No time frame can, however, be assigned, as it requires consultation with several agencies.

Grants for Old Age Homes to Jharkhand

1480. SHRI S.S.AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided grants-in-aid to the State Government of Jharkhand for setting up Old Age Homes for the welfare of senior citizens in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) the number of Old Age Homes presently in operation and the number Of senior citizens in the State availing its benefits as on date and future expansion plan, if any?

†Original notice of the question was reeceived in Hindi.